

Shining Stars Dance School

Instructors



Veronica Lewis

Veronica is the Owner and an Instructor at Shining Stars Dance School. She began dancing at age 3. Through her teen years Veronica choreographed and performed several solos in spring recitals and also was a majorette and a cheerleader. She couldn't imagine not dancing so she moved to Springfield, MO to attend Southwest Missouri State University where she graduated Cum Laude with her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance Studies and a Minor in Business Entrepreneurship in 1997. Veronica began her teaching career in 1997 under the amazing leadership of the late Patti Phillips. Veronica has had the privilege, over the years, to study under some great leaders in the industry such as Rhythm McCarthy, Al Gilbert, Misty Lown, Darryl Retter, Janice Barringer, Becca Retter, Tommie Retter, Randall Flynn and many more. Veronica was the local coordinator for the Moscow Ballet's "The Nutcracker" in 2004 and 2005. Veronica opened Shining Stars Dance School in the fall of 2006 with the desire to share her love of Jesus and dance with the children of the River Valley. The studio outgrew the starting location and in the summer of 2012 SSDS was relocated to the current location. Veronica is the mother of Braden and Venesa and the wife of Independent Financial Advisor, Brad Lewis, owner of United Financial Advisors. "Teaching recreational dance in a God honoring setting is my passion!"



Kristen Lacewell

Ms. Kristen took her first dance class in a church at the age of 8. She fell in love with dance and soon began her training in classical ballet and contemporary dance, as well as jazz, tap, hip hop and ballroom. Kristen was accepted into a performing ballet company and, for three years, danced in a number of large-scale productions including "The Nutcracker", "Alice and Wonderland", and "Earthquake". During her years in company she also performed annually at RDA (Regional Dance America). Kristen has studied with Penny Askew of Oklahoma City Ballet, CeCe Farha of the Washington School of Ballet, Liz Dimmel of Dramatic Truth in Kansas City and Randall Flynn, director of Ad Deum in Houston. Kristen began teaching dance in 2009 and started at SSDS in 2014. Kristen is passionate about helping her students find an appreciation and love for dance. Kristen is married to Weston Lacewell



Kaitlyn (Katie) Jones

Katie began taking private dance/twirling lessons around the age of 7. In Junior High, Katie was selected as a Chaffin Charmer for both the 8th and 9th grade. Katie attended Southside High School where she was a Dixie Belle for 3 years. Katie is currently attending UAFS where she has been Co-Captain and is now Captain of the Pom Squad which she has been a part of for 3 years. As a member of the UAFS Pom Squad in 2015 they ranked first in the American National Dance Association and 2016 they were ranked 5th in the nation at NDA Nationals in Daytona. Katie began teaching at SSDS in the summer of 2016. Katie is a Music Education major specializing in flute. She plans to become a band director after graduation while continuing to share her love of dance with her students.



Kacee Montgomery

Kacee grew up in a small town in southern Colorado. In high school she had the privilege of being captain of both her dance team and cheer squad. She attended college at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colorado. There, she starred in several musical productions including "Legally Blonde the Musical", "Once Upon a Mattress," and "Nine" in which she was also selected as dance captain. She also performed in numerous faculty concerts as well as student-produced concerts. She has worked with several big name performers and choreographers such as Rachelle Rak and Dante Lara. Both semesters of her college senior year, she was selected as the student choreographer to present her work in the faculty concerts. She also won the "Outstanding Student Choreographer" award for 2016. Kacee graduated Cum Laude with her Bachelors of Fine Arts in dance in 2016. Most recently, Kacee had the honor of completing the college program at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. She has always had a passion for movement and a love for working with children. The Lord and her family mean the world to her.